PEACE/WILLISTON
FISH & WILDLIFE
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South Peace Arm Stone's Sheep Inventory, December 1992

M. D. Wood
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PWFWCP Report No. 23

The Peace/Williston Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program is a cooperative venture of BC Hydro and the provincial fish and wildlife management agencies, supported by funding from BC Hydro. The Program was established to enhance and protect fish and wildlife resources affected by the construction of the W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon dams on the Peace River, and the subsequent creation of the Williston and Dinosaur Reservoirs.

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Website: *www.bchydro.bc.ca/environment/initiatives/pwcp/*

This report has been approved by the Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Fish Technical Committee.

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SOUTH PEACE ARM STONE'S SHEEP INVENTORY

DECEMBER 2, 1992

INTRODUCTION:

An total count inventory of Stone's sheep on the South side of the Peace Arm was conducted on December 2, 1992 to monitor the success of the 1990 and 1991 transplants to this area. Mt. Frank Roy, Mt. Monteith and Mt. Bickford were surveyed using a Bell 206 helicopter chartered by Northern Mountain Helicopters from Fort St. John, with pilot Wade Ross.

SURVEY CONDITIONS:

The survey commenced at 10:38 am at Mt. Bickford and was completed by around 12:30 pm. The weather was clear, with the temperature around -12 degrees C. Winds were moderate and hampered searching of some areas. Snow coverage was 100%, with depths ranging from 0 to 25 cm. It had been about a week since the last snowfall.

METHODS:

The inventory method involved contour flying around the above named mountain blocks using a helicopter and three-person crew. The two rear seat observers (Man Wood, Wildlife Biologist, Williston Program, and Fraser Corbould, Wildlife Biologist, Williston Program) searched for, counted and classified animals. The navigator (Rob Woods, Wildlife Habitat Technician, Fort St. John) also searched for and classified animals, and recorded the locations of animals seen on 1:250,000 topographic maps. Animals were classified as adult male, adult female, yearling and lambs/calves.

RESULTS:

A total of 15 Stone's sheep and 15 caribou were sighted. Group size, classifications and map locations are recorded on the following tables and maps (Appendices I and II). All Stone's sheep were located on the south facing slopes of Mt. Monteith, between 4000' and 5500' elevation. The majority were located in a large old burned area below alpine. One lamb was observed that was not seen on the June survey of this area. Three rams were also sighted as compared with only two in June. All three radio-collared sheep were among the sheep sighted.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. An additional transplant of about 10 Stone's sheep should be undertaken in February to supplement the existing population. Recruitment was found to be generally low from the 1992 censuses (only one lamb seen), however, yearlings were observed. Supplementing this population should help to stabilize/increase sheep numbers. Between 3 to 5 rams should be included in the transplanted sheep to increase the chances of ewes being serviced. Sheep should be relocated to key winter range areas on Mt. Monteith and Mt. Frank Roy, near the present concentrations of sheep. About five of the transplanted sheep should be radio-collared and monitored to determine seasonal use of habitats, and success of the transplanted population.

2. Monitoring of the radio-collared sheep by fixed wing relocations should be continued on a monthly basis.

APPENDIX I: STONE'S SHEEP

STONE'S SHEEP

GROUP #		MALE	FEMALE	YRLG	LAMB	TOTAL
4			2			2
5			1		1	2
8		2	3			5
9		1	3	1		5
10			1			1
TOTAL		3	10	1	1	15

NOTES:

Group 8: Two radio-collared adult females:
149.593 with red ear tag; 148.905

Group 9: One radio-collared adult male 148.464

APPENDIX II: OTHER WILDLIFE

CARIBOU OBSERVED

GROUP #	ADULT MALE	ADULT FEMALE	UNCLAS ADULT	UNCLASS CARIBOU	CALF	TOTAL
1			3			3
2		1	2		2	5
3	1		1			2
6				3		3
7			10		2	12
11				25		25
TOTAL	1	1	16	28	4	50

45'
30'
15'
ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
FOOTHILLS
MOUNTAINS
MOUNT COWPER
MOUNT ROCHFORT
MOUNT WRIGLEY
BATTLESHIP MOUNTAIN
PORTAGE MOUNTAIN
GRANT KNOB
MOUNT JOHNSON
THE MONARCH
MOUNT McALLISTER
BEATTIE PEAKS
MOUNT FRANK ROY
MOUNT MONTEITH
ROSETTA RIDGE
DOKIE RIDGE
MOUNT HULCROSS
Pine Valley
Hulcross
MOUNT BICKFORD
FALLS MOUNTAIN
PYRAMID PEAK
Lemoray
Garbitt
SOLITUDE MOUNTAIN
MOUNT MURRAY
BRITISH COLUMBIA
ALBERTA
PEACE RIVER
RAIL

45'
30'
15'
ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
FOOTHILLS
MOUNTAINS
ROCHEUSES
MOUNT COWPER
MOUNT ROCHFORT
MOUNT WRIGLEY
THE MONACH
BATTLESHIP MOUNTAIN
MOUNT McALLISTER
SEATTLE PEAKS
MOUNT FRANK ROY
MOUNT MONTEITH
ROSETTA RIDGE
DOME RIDGE
MOUNT HOLCROSS
MOUNT BICKFORD
PYRAMID PEAK
FALLS MOUNTAIN
SOUTHSIDE MOUNTAIN
MOUNT MURRAY
MOUNT SARGENT
Garbitt
Lesnoray
PORTAGE MOUNTAIN
GRANT RIDGE
MOUNT JOHNSON
PEACE RIVER
Pine Valley
Holcross
BRITISH COLUMBIA
RAIL